

The Kishimoto and Clark references were discussed in detail in the response filed on June 9. However, the applicants believe that further comments on Yano would be useful.

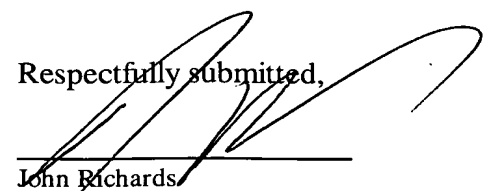
Yano discloses a distributed data archive system to which a user can deposit data files. As shown in the flowchart of FIG. 3 of Yano, a user can log-on the archive device file through step S1 of the MEDIUM READING AND AUTHENTICATION process. The logged-on user is then be able to deposit a data file through steps S11 'to S37, or to extract a data file through steps S41 to S51. When the logged-on user deposits a data file into archive device 1, the file is divided into a plurality of data blocks which are transferred to and stored in data servers 2a, 2b and 2c through the network 3. When the logged-on user extracts the data file, the data blocks stored in data servers 2a, 2b and 2c are transferred to the archive device 1 and an original data file is integrated. The logged-on user will finally be logged-off the archive device 1 at the end of the flowchart.

According to the Yano system, when a data file is deposited from the logged-on user to the archive device I , the deposited file is transferred to the data servers while the user is still in a logged-on condition (steps S29 and S31 are carried out while the user is in a logged-on condition).

In the invention as claimed in claim 11, data files prepared or renewed based on tasks by the logged-on user are transferred into an external storage device via a network when said looged-on user executes the log-off procedure. This is not a feature of any of the cited references, nor is there any reason why one skilled in the art would adopt such a feature based on these disclosures.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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